

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, claims 48-57, 61-68, and 71-78 will be pending in the present application. Claims 58-60, 69-70, and 79-81 have been cancelled. Claims 48, 61, and 71 have been amended to incorporate elements from cancelled claims. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any cancelled claim and any amended claim in its original form in a continuation application.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 56-57, 60, 67-68, 70, 77-78, and 81 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to facilitate early allowance of pending claims, Applicant has incorporated allowable dependent claims 60, 70, and 81 into independent claims 48, 61, and 71, respectively, along with intervening claims 58-59, 69, and 79-80.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 48, 61, and 71, as amended, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is believed to be warranted and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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